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FLOOR DEBATE

March 2, 2004 LB 998A, 998

the discussion that's been had concerning this bill. I think it clearly shows that the one thing we're looking at in this is the retain viability of the Excess Liability Fund, and although that's going to mean more dollars out of the physicians' and the hospitals' monies in order to pay for this, they are willing to do that because they know that the Excess Liability Fund is being depleted and that we need to have a viable fund in order to retain the medical system that we have regarding malpractice. I think no one is happy about paying more for their premiums, but I think the physicians and the care providers have recognized the overriding concerns the public has, and that this is in the best interest of providing quality medical care for the people, and assuring that there is a fund in the event that someone commits a malpractice case. I think it's in the best interests of the citizens of Nebraska to adopt this, and I would urge you to vote to adopt this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. You've heard the closing on advancement of LB 998. The question before the body is, shall LB 998 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Question before the body is advancement of LB 998 to E & R Initial. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 998.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 998 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: LB 998A by Senator Pederson. (Read title.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, you're recognized to open on LB 998A.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. You will see that there are two fiscal notes. One was an early fiscal note that provided that there be about \$400,000 of monies provided for the...this particular bill. One of the reasons why...well, in fact, the reason why we move the effective date of the application of this bill to January 1 is in order to alleviate